

United States House of Representatives



**Subcommittee on National Security,
Emerging Threats and International Relations**

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****MEDIA ADVISORY****

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**Congressman Christopher Shays to Hold March 16 Hearing on
“Homeland Security Advisory System: Threat Codes and Public Responses”**

(Washington, DC) -- Congressman Christopher Shays (R-CT), Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats, and International Relations, will convene an oversight hearing to examine the Homeland Security Advisory System (HSAS), and the adequacy of information on threats and appropriate protective measures provided to the public

The purpose of the Homeland Security Advisory System is to provide a comprehensive and effective means to disseminate information regarding the risk of terrorist acts to Federal, State, and local authorities, and to the American people. The HSAS is intended to create a common vocabulary, context, and structure for an ongoing national discussion with Federal, State and local authorities, private sector industries, and the people of the United States about the nature of the threats that confront the homeland and the appropriate measures that should be taken in response

“After so many vague, false alarms, the public is getting color blind,” Shays said, “Even when the alert is raised to Orange, meaning a high level of risk, we’re told to go about business as usual as if nothing were going to happen. There has to be a way to refine this system so the public gets more specific information about threats and what to do about them.”

The Tuesday, March 16, 2004 hearing will convene at 10:00 am in room 2154 of the Rayburn Building in Washington, D.C.

WITNESS LIST

Committee on Government Reform

Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations

March 16, 2004

“HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISORY SYSTEM: THREAT CODES AND PUBLIC RESPONSES”

Panel I

Representative

from

Department of Homeland Security
(invited)

Mr. Randall Yim

Managing Director
Homeland Security and Justice Team
General Accounting Office

Mr. Shawn Reese

Analyst in American National Government
Congressional Research Service

Panel II

Representative

from

American Red Cross
(invited)

Mr. Michael Wermuth

Senior Policy Analyst
RAND Corporation

Dr. James Jay Carafano

Senior Research Fellow
Defense and Homeland Security
Heritage Foundation